UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,394	10/23/2001	James Tremlett	00-8022	5343

			EXAMINER
32127	7590	07/12/2005	SALL, EL HADJI MALICK

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/003,394	TREMLETT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	El Hadji M. Sall	2157

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>22 April 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-31</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

1.   **DETAILED ACTION**

This action is responsive to the application files on April 22, 2005. Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1-31 represent application server domain.

2.   ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liljestrand et al. (referred to hereafter as Lil) U.S. 6,853,714 in view of Rao U.S. 6,789,118.

Lil teaches the invention substantially as claimed including apparatus and method for providing enhanced telecommunications services.

As to claim 1 , Lil teaches a method of handling a call offering one or more services, the method comprising:

Receiving information corresponding to said call at the application server, the information including data identifying a subscriber of said one or more of services offered by the application server (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Based on the information corresponding to the call, routing subscribers (column6, lines 52-55); and

Handling the call in accordance with an up-to-date routing information (column 6, lines 33-40).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches multi-service network switch with policy based routing. Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide based on the information corresponding to the call, selecting a domain policy, the domain policy applying to a set of subscribers; and handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 2, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, wherein receiving information corresponding to a call comprises receiving information from a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 3, Lil teaches the method of claim 1 , wherein the information including data identifying a subscriber comprises at least one of the following: an origination phone number and a termination phone number (column 4, lines 13-18, Lil discloses to access the voice-activated interface within the enhanced services platform, the subscriber need only dial his/her own phone number).

As to claim 4, Lil teaches the method of claim 1.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 5, Lil teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising constructing a call model for the call (figure 5; column 1, lines 39-43, Lil discloses enhanced services include single access services, specialized call routing and specialized call terminating treatment, and all of these enhanced services have been created with today's telephone system in mind).

As to claim 6, Lil teaches the method of claim 1 , further comprising:

Determining a service domain having a call service (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying the domain policy of

the determined service domain to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 7, Lil teaches the method of claim 1.

Lil fails to teach explicitly handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy comprises authorizing the call.

However, Rao teaches handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy comprises authorizing the call (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy comprises authorizing the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 8 , Lil teaches a method of providing call services at an application server, the method comprising:

Defining a set of at least two domains (figure 5).

Receiving information corresponding to a call (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Determining one or more domains that apply to the call (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying policies associated with the determined domains to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 9, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise more than one subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 10, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise more than one service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 11, Lil teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise more than one device domain (figure 5).

As to claim 12, Rao teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the domains comprise more than one subscriber domain and more than one service domain (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 13, Lil teaches the method of claim 8.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises policies encoded in a computer programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 14, Lil teaches an application server, comprising:

One or more aggregation domains (figure 5); and

A domain mapper that identifies one or more domains based on call information (column 4, lines 29-35, Lil discloses To determine the routing information for the called subscriber 150b, the "virtual administrator" accesses a database within the enhanced services platform 100, which stores called party numbers and associated names (or other type of spoken identity data)).

Lil fails to teach explicitly some of the domains having an associated authorization policy.

However, Rao teaches some of the domains having an associated authorization policy (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide one or more aggregation domains, at least some of the domains having an associated authorization policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 15, Lil teaches the application server of claim 14, wherein the domains comprise subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 16, Lil teaches the application server of claim 15, wherein the domains comprise service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 17, Lil teaches the application server of claim 15, further comprising a service provider interface for handling call information received from a transport device (column 22, lines 3-7, Lil discloses he enhanced network 125 is also connected to multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) 112a-c to allow subscriber Internet/WEB 105 access to their subscriber profiles and the enhanced services via the web-activated interface)

As to claim 18, Lil teaches the application server of claim 17, wherein the transport device comprises a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 19, Lil teaches a computer program product, disposed on a computer readable medium, for providing calls services at an application server, the computer program including instructions for causing a processor to:
Define a set of more than one domains (figure 5).
Receiving information corresponding to a call (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of enhanced services).
Determining one or more domains that apply to the call (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).
Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy.

However, Rao teaches the domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying policies associated with the determined domains to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 20, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the domains comprise more than one subscriber domains (figure 5).

As to claim 21, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the domains comprise more than one service domains (column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 22, Rao teaches the computer program of claim 19, wherein the domains comprise more than one subscriber domain and more than one service domain (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

As to claim 23, Lil teaches the computer program of claim 19.

Lil fails to teach explicitly the domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide the domain policy comprises

policies encoded in a computer programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 24 , Lil teaches a method of handling calls at an application server offering one or more call services to customers of one or more telecommunications services providers, said method comprising:

Receiving information corresponding to said calls at said application server, said information for each one of said calls including data identifying a subscriber of said one or more of services offered by the application server (column 6, lines 16-21, Lil discloses the softswitch is capable of using a voice-activated interface (i.e. or "identifier") to enable a subscriber to access at least one of the plurality of enhanced services).

Selecting a domain policy for said each one of said calls, based on the information corresponding to said calls, routing subscribers (column6, lines 52-55); and

Handling each of said calls in accordance with an up-to-date routing information (column 6, lines 33-40).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide selecting a domain policy for said each one of said calls, based on the information corresponding to said calls to obtain a selected domain policy for said each one of said calls, each said selected domain policy applying to a set of subscribers of one of said one or more telecommunication service providers; and handling each of said calls in accordance with the selected domain policy. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 25, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, wherein receiving information corresponding to said calls comprises receiving information from a softswitch (column 6, lines 16-55).

As to claim 26, Lil teaches the method of claim 24 , wherein said information including data identifying a subscriber comprises at least one of the following: an origination phone number and a termination phone number (column 4, lines 13-18, Lil discloses to access the voice-activated interface within the enhanced services platform, the subscriber need only dial his/her own phone number).

As to claim 27, Lil teaches the method of claim 24.

Lil fails to teach explicitly said domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide said domain policy comprises a policy encoded in a programming language including conditional expressions. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 28, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, further comprising constructing a call model for said calls (figure 5; column 1, lines 39-43, Lil discloses enhanced services include single access services, specialized call routing and specialized call terminating treatment, and all of these enhanced services have been created with today's telephone system in mind).

As to claim 29, Lil teaches the method of claim 24 , further comprising:

determining a service domain having a call service (figure 5; column 2, lines 37-41, Lil discloses the present invention is directed to an apparatus and method for providing a plurality of transparent enhanced telecommunications services to subscribers by implementing an enhanced services platform on a local network exchange within the public telephone network).

Lil fails to teach explicitly domain policy.

However, Rao teaches domain policy (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to provide applying domain policy of said determined service domain to the call. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

As to claim 30, Lil teaches the method of claim 24, wherein said call services include voice-mail, call-forwarding, call-messaging, and 911 services (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 9).

As to claim 31, Lil teaches the method of claim 30.

Lil fails to teach explicitly handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers access to one or more of said call services.

However, Rao teaches handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers access to one or more of said call services (column 9, lines 22-24, Rao discloses the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID allow the switch to provide access to resources that the user authorized for).

It would have bee obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lil in view of Rao to handling the call in accordance with the selected domain policy includes authorizing or denying said subscribers
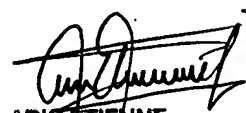
access to one or more of said call services. One would be motivated to do so to allow proper handling of callers (column 6, line 39).

4.   *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to El Hadji M Sall whose telephone number is 571-272-4010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

El Hadji Sall
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